

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This communication is in response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed April 3, 2008. Claim 1-16 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 17, 18, 23 and 24 have been amended. New claims 32-34 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 17-34 remain pending in this application with claims 17, 24 and 32-34 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in view of the amendments to the claims is requested.

Claim objections

Claim 23 was amended to overcome the objection, wherein in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion the limitation "a drawer frame" was amended to read "the drawer frame." Withdrawal of the objection in view of the amendment to claim 23 is therefore requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of base claim 17. Accordingly, claim 18 is now allowable. Claims 19-23 depend from independent claim 18 and thus are also allowable. New independent claim 34 represents a combination of the limitations from independent claim 17 and the allowable subject matter from dependent claim 18. Thus, Applicants submit that claims 18-23 and 34 are allowable.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 17, 24 and 25 are rejected as anticipated by Grabher (US Patent No. 5,462,349). Claims 26-31 are rejected as obvious over Grabher in view of Salice (US Patent No. 6,629,738).

Independent Claims 17 and 24

Amended claims 17 and 24 specify "the outer strip-shaped leg portion (28b) extending longitudinally the entire length of the inner strip-shaped leg portion (28a) and the outer strip-shaped leg portion (28b) being substantially planar prior to assembly." (emphasis added)

Grabher, however, discloses (Fig. 3 – showing the unassembled state) grips 11, 12 projecting, rather than substantially planar, from the horizontal support shank 5.

Independent Claims 32 and 33

New independent claims 32 and 33 are distinguishable over Grabher in that each calls for “the outer strip-shaped leg portion (28b) extending longitudinally the entire length of the inner strip-shaped leg portion (28a) and the free edge of the outer strip-shaped leg portion (28a) being substantially linear.” (emphasis added) To the contrary, as shown in Fig. 3 of Grabher the free edge (right hand side) extending longitudinally the entire length of the groove 4 is not linear due to the horizontal slots 6, 7 defining the tab 10.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 17-34 are in condition for allowance and passage of the application to issuance is therefore requested.


CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicant respectfully requests that this be considered a petition therefor. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,
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